

**From:** [Gray, David](#)  
**To:** [Catherine Traywick](#)  
**Cc:** [Press](#)  
**Bcc:** [Bowman, Liz](#); [Grantham, Nancy](#); [Graham, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Valero Houston refinery Benzene leak  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2017 4:18:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [6ENA.Valero Refinery-Texas, L.P.09.14.17.pdf](#)

---

Hi Catherine,

Yes. We sent this information request to them.

David

---

**From:** Catherine Traywick (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [mailto:ctraywick@bloomberg.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2017 1:00 PM  
**To:** Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Valero Houston refinery Benzene leak

Hi David,

I saw a news report stating that EPA had filed a records request with Valero. Is this request separate from the emissions report that Valero is finalizing? If so, can you share any details about what specific records you are seeking?

Catherine

---

Sent from Bloomberg Professional for iPhone

Catherine Traywick  
Reporter, Bloomberg News  
Washington, D.C.  
Desk: 202.807.2021  
Mobile: 323.602.6056  
@ctraywick

[https://www.bloomberg.com/authors/AR9W\\_LtvV9o/catherine-traywick](https://www.bloomberg.com/authors/AR9W_LtvV9o/catherine-traywick)

----- Original Message -----

From: David Gray <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>  
To: CATHERINE TRAYWICK, [Andrew.Keese@Tceq.Texas.Gov](mailto:Andrew.Keese@Tceq.Texas.Gov),  
[andrea.morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:andrea.morrow@tceq.texas.gov)  
CC: [Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)  
At: 15-Sep-2017 12:25:10

Catherine,

Here is some additional information for you.

David

Air Monitoring – Southeast Houston, Manchester Community

EPA has concluded that the probable source of elevated benzene and VOC readings in the Manchester community in Houston was the roof failure and spill from a light crude storage tank at the Valero Houston Refinery during Hurricane Harvey. EPA investigation into Valero Houston Refinery response and cleanup activities will continue. EPA has a long-standing practice of not disclosing specific details regarding on-going investigations. However, the complete results of our investigation will be made public upon its conclusion.

Following the review of air monitoring data from EPA's mobile unit and the City of Houston, EPA sent air specialists to the refinery on September 8 to evaluate the incident. Utilizing an infrared camera, EPA identified moderate on-going releases from the 190-foot wide tank. Valero reported to EPA that it was removing residual crude material from the tank using pumps and evaluating safe methods for removing the crumpled roof from the tank.

In addition, Valero has informed EPA that it believes it significantly underestimated the amount of VOCs and benzene released in its original report to the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System. Based upon the volume of material in the tank at the time of the roof failure, EPA estimates that the emissions from the tank were highest immediately following the roof failure and have diminished over time due to efforts by the company to remove tank contents and apply foam suppressant to minimize emissions. Valero has informed EPA and TCEQ that they are preparing a follow up report that will indicate as substantial increase in overall reported emissions from the event.

---

**From:** Catherine Traywick (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)  
[<mailto:ctraywick@bloomberg.net>]

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2017 11:15 AM

**To:** Andrea Morrow <[andrea.morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:andrea.morrow@tceq.texas.gov)>; Gray, David  
<[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; [Andrew.Keese@Tceq.Texas.Gov](mailto:Andrew.Keese@Tceq.Texas.Gov)

**Subject:** Valero Houston refinery Benzene leak

Good morning all,

Checking in to see if you can share any details on investigations into the benzene leak at the Valero Houston refinery. I saw this in yesterday's update:

EPA has concluded that the probable source of benzene and volatile organic compound readings in the Manchester community in Houston was the roof failure and spill from a light crude storage tank at the Valero Houston Refinery during Hurricane Harvey. EPA investigation into Valero Houston Refinery response and cleanup activities will continue.

When do you expect to finalize your investigation report? Can you share any details on the size, duration and impact of the leak? Other media has reported EPA as saying that the leak was much larger than originally reported by Valero.

Many thanks,  
Catherine

---

Catherine Traywick  
Reporter, Bloomberg News  
Washington, D.C.  
Desk: 202.807.2021  
Mobile: 323.602.6056  
@ctraywick

[https://www.bloomberg.com/authors/AR9W\\_LtvV9o/catherine-traywick](https://www.bloomberg.com/authors/AR9W_LtvV9o/catherine-traywick)